

PATENT

Application No.: 10/665,307

Filed: September 18, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are pending. Claims 14, 15 and 17 have been amended to correct a typographical error(s).

Claim Objections

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the objection to claims 2-5 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 101

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the rejection of claims 1 and 7-26 under 35 USC 101 is withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4-8 of US Patent No. 6403312. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer obviating this rejection.

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 36-41 of copending Application No. 09/782,004. Applicants note the Examiner identified the instant application as a divisional of copending application 09/782,004. Nonetheless, the claims are provisionally rejected. Without necessarily agreeing with the propriety of the rejection and in no way acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants are submitting herein a terminal disclaimer obviating this rejection.

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 52-69 of copending Application No. 09/927,790. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer obviating this rejection.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. Early favorable communication thereof is respectfully requested. Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (415) 442-1216.

While Applicants believe that no other fees are due at this time, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including extension fees or any other relief that may be required, in connection with this reply to Deposit Account 50-0310 (Docket No.: 67461-5041US06).

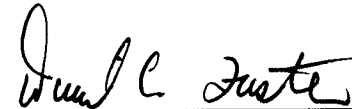
The undersigned is an attorney or agent of record.

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